

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE NAMES MARGARET GARCIA-DUGAN DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PHOENIX (Wednesday, July 27, 2005) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne announced the appointment of Margaret Garcia-Dugan as the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, the number one position in the Department other than the Superintendent. Garcia-Dugan will immediately fill the position left by the vacancy of Tacy Ashby, now the Superintendent of the Cave Creek Unified School District.

Garcia-Dugan was raised in Bisbee. She is one of ten children, whose father lived in Mexico for 10 years as a child. The primary language in the home was and is Spanish, but throughout her schooling she was immersed in English. She graduated from Bisbee High School and then attended and graduated from the University of Arizona with a bachelors and a masters in Secondary Education from ASU. Garcia-Dugan's father was so dedicated to his children's education, that he purchased a set of Encyclopedia Britannica's for the family and expected all the children to read them. This purchase was a huge financial strain on the family, so he paid off the purchase by paying five dollars a month for three years. Only one brother took the father's request to heart and read the whole set.

Garcia-Dugan previously served the Department as Associate Superintendent of Academic Achievement, primarily responsible for implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

"I am thrilled to have Margaret Garcia-Dugan serving as the Deputy of the Department. She brings decades of experience in education as a teacher, a principal and an administrator from Arizona schools and invaluable leadership for this Department at a time when the education of our children is a top priority," said Horne.

Garcia-Dugan served as co-chair for English for the Children in 1999, and worked on the campaign for Proposition 203, the initiative that replaced bilingual education in the schools with Structured English Immersion. Because of her own upbringing, as well as her siblings, she passionately believes that learning English is the most critical skill to master in order to be successful in life. Garcia-Dugan wants all children to be afforded the same opportunities she experienced while in public schools.

Dugan has served in education for 30 years: 13 years as a teacher; 16 years as a local school administrator, of those, 10 years as principal of Glendale High School, and a year as District administrator for curriculum and instruction.

Garcia-Dugan has been married to her high school sweetheart, Mike Dugan for 32 years and has a son, Joseph who is beginning a career in teaching.

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